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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 19, 1861.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

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**AN ACT**

To amend an act supplementary to an act approved March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, "to organize an Institution for the Insane of the Army and Navy and of the District of Columbia in the said District," approved February seven, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3        That as a substitute for the second section of the supple-  
4        mentary act aforesaid, which is hereby repealed, the Secre-  
5        tary of the Interior shall have power to grant his order for  
6        the admission into the Government Hospital for the Insane  
7        of any insane person not charged with a breach of the  
8        peace, upon (1) the certificate of any judge of the circuit or  
9        criminal court for the District of Columbia, or of any justice  
10       of the peace of the District, stating that two respectable  
11       physicians, resident of the District, appeared before said  
12       judge or justice, and certified under oath and under their

13 hands that they knew the person alleged to be insane, and  
14 that, from personal examination, they believed him or her  
15 to be insane and a fit subject for treatment in said hospital,  
16 and that he or she was a resident of the District at the time  
17 he or she was seized with the mental disorder under which  
18 he or she then labored ; also stating that two respectable  
19 householders, residents of the District, appeared before him,  
20 the said judge or justice, and certified under oath and under  
21 their hands that they knew the person alleged to be insane,  
22 and that, from a personal examination into his or her  
23 affairs, they believed him or her to be unable to support  
24 himself or herself and family (or himself or herself, if he or  
25 she have no family) under the visitation of insanity, and to  
26 pay his or her board and other expenses in said hospital,  
27 and the certificate under oath of such physicians and of  
28 such householders shall accompany the certificate of such  
29 judge or justice ; and (2) upon an application requesting  
30 that such order may be issued, made in writing, within five  
31 days after the date of the affidavits aforesaid, by a member  
32 of the Board of Visitors of said hospital, upon an inspection  
33 of said affidavits and certificate thereto ; and it will be the  
34 duty of said visitor to withhold his application if he has  
35 reason to doubt the indigence of the party in whose behalf  
36 the application is desired till such doubt is removed by  
37 testimony satisfactory to said visitor.

1        SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That, if it shall appear  
2 in the case of any insane person whose insanity commenced  
3 while he or she was a resident of the District of Columbia,  
4 that he or she is able to defray a portion but not the whole  
5 of the expenses of his or her support and treatment in the  
6 Government Hospital for the Insane, then the Board of Vis-  
7 itors of the said hospital is authorized to inquire into the  
8 facts of the case, and if it shall appear to said board, upon  
9 such inquiry, that such insane person has property and no  
10 family, or more property than is required for the support of  
11 his or her family, then, as a condition upon which such in-  
12 sane person, admitted or to be admitted upon the order of  
13 the Secretary of the Interior, shall receive or continue to  
14 receive the benefits of said hospital, there shall be paid to  
15 the superintendent from the income, property, or estate of  
16 such insane person, such portion of his expenses in said  
17 hospital as a majority of the said board shall determine to  
18 be just and reasonable under all the circumstances.

Passed the House of Representatives February 18, 1861.

Attest:

J. W. FORNEY, *Clerk.*